

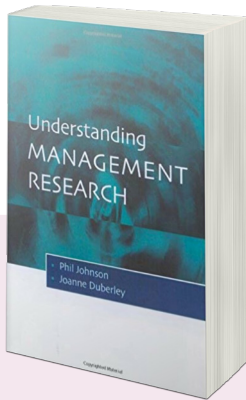
BOOK RECOMMENDATION

Epistemology of Management science

Translated version

Pedro Jaime | pedrojaime@fei.edu.br | ORCID: 0000-0002-9292-220X

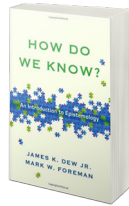
Over the last 10 years in Brazil, debates around epistemological issues have grown in the field of management science. Several graduate programs in this field already offer courses on epistemology of management research. It is a topic of interest to three categories of the meeting of the National Association of Postgraduate and Research in Management (EnANPAD), namely teaching and research in management and accounting (EPQ), organizational studies (EOR), and marketing (MKT). Furthermore, an international colloquium on the subject has been regularly held at the Federal University of Santa Catarina, under the leadership of Professor Maurício Serva. Given below are a list of recommended books that can aid graduate students of management to understand the complex philosophical foundations of the social sciences and the management studies and produce knowledge in this domain. These books were suggested and reviewed by Professor Pedro Jaime (Graduate Program on Management Studies/FEI-SP), author of the *Executivos negros: Racismo e diversidade no mundo empresarial* (Edusp, 2016) and *Sociologia das organizações: Conceitos, relatos e casos* (Cengage, 2017).



UNDERSTANDING MANAGEMENT RESEARCH: An Introduction to Epistemology

Phil Johnson & Joanne Duberley. London, UK: Sage, 2000, p.224.

The book consists of eight chapters, including an introduction that emphasizes the importance of epistemology in research on management and a conclusion that advocates for a more reflexive approach towards studies in this area. The other chapters discuss the epistemological currents; a few examples of these currents are positivism, conventionalism, critical theory, pragmatism, and critical realism. It is worth mentioning the absence of a chapter on interpretative approaches, which are studied along with the positivist perspective, causing possible confusion on the readers.



HOW DO WE KNOW? An Introduction to Epistemology

James K. Dew Jr. & Mark W. Foreman. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2014, p. 175.

As an educational book, it places epistemology as the branch of philosophy that deals with nature and the sources of knowledge. It discusses central concepts of epistemological reflection, including truth, inference, perception, justification, and certainty. The following two caveats should be noted: 1) the specificities of the production of knowledge in social sciences are not always identified, and 2) the authors are professors of philosophy and religion. Therefore, some passages of the book, and even one entire chapter, are devoted to theological knowledge.



PHILOSOPHY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE: The Philosophical Foundations of Social Thought

Ted Benton & Ian Craib. London, UK: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010, p. 256.

It presents the philosophical basis of social sciences. The introduction suggests that the production of knowledge in this field gains density when directed toward branches of philosophy, such as epistemology, ontology, logic, and ethics. The chapters are dedicated to different epistemological trends: positivism, distinct interpretive traditions (comprehensive sociology, phenomenology, hermeneutics), critical theory, critical realism, feminist, and postmodernist and poststructuralist approaches. The work is completed by conclusions, comments on recent developments, and a useful glossary.



PHILOSOPHIES OF SOCIAL SCIENCE: The Classic and Contemporary Readings

Gerard Delanty & Piet Strydom (Eds.). Maidenhead, UK: Open University Press, 2003, p. 496

The book is a collection of extracts from works written by classical and contemporary authors of philosophy and social sciences. The introduction position epistemology in relation to ontology and methodology. Six parts are dedicated to positivism and its critics, interpretive traditions, critical theory, pragmatism/semiotics, structuralism/post-structuralism controversy, and new approaches, respectively. Each part presents a brief introduction which brings the central aspects of the tradition and the authors associated with it.



RESEARCH CONCEPTS FOR MANAGEMENT STUDIES

Alan Berkeley Thomas. London, UK: Routledge, 2006, p. 224.

This book addresses the language employed in management research, and hence serves as a guide to students in this domain. It emphasizes that concepts related to the scientific practice in this area have multiple meanings because they are influenced by different temporal, national, epistemological, methodological, and disciplinary contexts. The author discusses notions of science, theory, data, validity and significance used in three major subareas of management studies - accounting and finance, marketing and organizational behavior - and their connections to roots disciplines such as economics, sociology, and psychology.